#49

LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

Profile Girl

Krystal Black

Brenda Lawrence

Chocolate: Not Just For Breakfast!

Foxy Roxy

Gettin' In Trouble Again

Commentary

Roxanne Van Ness

Wendi Jackson

Foto Feature:

Paradise In The Poconos

and photos, photos, photos!

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Letter From The Editor

Hi Ladies! It's your hard working editor again. This issue I want to pull out that old bogey hag, passing, and take a look at it again.

When I was a young CD, teetering on my heels and sneaking around the neighborhood at 3 in the morning pretending I was a lady who had to go out and mail an important letter, passing was extremely important to me. I would spend hours getting ready for that five minute dash to the corner mailbox.

While I really didn't do a great job of female impersonation back then, I did the best I could and took great pains to cover my leg hair with three pairs of tights, trowel on enough foundation to cause a severe shortage in some areas of the country, and make every effort to look like a woman. Or, so I thought.

What I failed to take into consideration, because I was so wrapped up in myself during the dress-up process, was two important things. For one thing, I was wearing something like three inch heels. I'm five foot eleven so with three inch heels and the added height of my wife's blonde wig perched on my head, I was about six foot four as I made my way to the mailbox. Second, I was a six foot four blonde in three inch spike heels tottering along the sidewalk in a residential area at three in the morning. How could I miss that part of passing?

We will take all kinds of pains to get our lip liner just so, our hair fluffed just right, and the seams on our stockings perfectly straight – totally ignoring the fact that next to no one wears seamed stockings outside of fetish parties and possibly some nightclubs. The girl who wears them to the mall on a Saturday afternoon is going to get closer scrutiny than the other ladies.

My point here is that there are many factors that allows a man dressed as a woman to be taken for a woman by those who observe him. Sometimes we fail to consider them all. (And I'm not even talking about a CD having to talk. That opens a whole other area.)

We hear stories all the time from girls who have been out and about and report that they "passed completely." Let me say it again (I wonder how many times I've said this) *there's no such thing as passing all the time*. Even the best of us, the part time girls that is, will always slip up somewhere. I usually feel that I do an okay job of blending into the scenery while enfemme. Often, I will go out for the night to some straight venue and not see any obvious signs that I have been "read." But, there's the rub! I said "obvious."

A month or so ago I went out to a center city Philadelphia hotel to visit with my friend who tends bar there. When I arrived the place was pretty busy. It caters to a lot of business travelers and the bar was almost full. I found a stool, ordered a glass of wine and tried to talk to my pal but she was running back and forth taking care of customers. A gentleman was sitting one stool over to my right. One thing led to another and we got into conversation. Now, my joy in dressing is to just go out and interact with other people, male or female, who just treat me as they would any other woman. That's how this conversation went.

We talked everything from politics to computers and time flew by. Soon, I had been yakking with this guy for over forty minutes and I had to get moving on. He did offer to buy me another glass of wine but I declined (for once exercising good judgement when it comes to knowing when to stop drinking) and made my way on home... where I emailed the bartender to ask her if my new pal had said anything about me. The next day she reported that he hadn't said anything and had left shortly after I did. (He told me he was going for sushi.) But, the guy to my left had a *lot* to say about me. He felt it was the bartender's duty to check that the man I was talking to knew that I was a guy. Like that's her job.

Here we have a total high and an abysmal low in one evening; accepted as a feminine person to talk with civilly by one person, and attacked as someone who is out to fool or otherwise perpetrate some sort of underhanded stuff by another guy at the same bar. What did I do? I enjoyed the positive interaction and realized that the other guy has a problem, not me. My bartending pal wondered why he got so upset about it. Could it be that he has some sort of suppressed attraction to TGs? We'll never know. What I do know is, don't worry about passing. Be yourself, enjoy yourself, do your best and remember... always be lady like!

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LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

Krystal Black. Photo provided by Krystal

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Krystal Black

Height: 5'8"

Weight: 142 lbs.

Residence: San Francisco Bay Area

Proffession: Health professional

Shoe size: 10½

Dress size: 10-12

Favorite clothes: Depends on my mood – romantic, sexy, career, casual, dom, love 'em all.

Favorite things: dancing, socializing, golf, feeling feminine, flirting

Turn-ons: true friends, making birdie, honesty, compliments, unspoken harmony with a woman

Turn-offs: hidden agendas, takers/users, insensitivity, substance abusers

Perfume: Depends on mood – Opium, Tea Rose, Poison, Giorgio

Music: blues, do-wop, love songs, SRV, Clapton

Movies: anything that makes me cry (e.g., Sweet November), war movies.

Shoe style: 3-4" sandal straps

Places: Paris, Sierras, Hawaii, Wilderness, Spyglass

Activities: traveling, camping, golf

Age: old enough to know what I like and don't.

This Krystal's Not Fragile!

LL: Our Profile girl this month is the lovely, dare I say, vivacious, Krystal Black. Hi, Krystal. Thank you so much for joining us for a chat. I know our readers will be fascinated by your story.

Krystal: Hi Angela, it's wonderful to be a Profile girl for *LadyLike* magazine. I only hope my story will inspire others.

LL: Let's do the obvious and start at the beginning. What were your first feminine influences?

K: My mother influenced my fascination with femininity.

LL: In what way?

K: I remember watching her dress and helping her make herself pretty. I would polish her high heel shoes, zip up her dress and watch her put on makeup. She made me feel special. I realize now she had another agenda, but that's a whole other story. She and my sister bonded well in this fashion and that special feminine dance, and I was drawn to it like a moth to a flame.

LL: How did your father feel about your participation in this feminine activity around the house?

K: My father was a worker bee and seldom took an interest in my masculine development.

LL: How did you feel about him?

K: Let's just say he didn't provide me with much of an attractive role model.

LL: What was your first actual dress up experience?

K: When I was 8 or 9, my mom and sister encouraged me to go to a Halloween party as a girl and dressed me up so convincingly that no one knew who I was when I got there.

LL: I think our readers are having the vapors right about now. That's one of the classic CD fantasies! How did you feel?

K: I remember getting all this attention and coming home so excited. Everyone, but me, forgot about it but that's when I began to experiment on my own with my sister's clothes and mother's cosmetics.

LL: Did they know what you were up to?

K: No. And I had many close calls and veiled accusations that 'someone' was in their things. I don't know what they used in lipstick back then, but it was very hard to rub off. I used to stay home feigning sickness when it was church time, and knowing I had 90 minutes to play, I would rush to play dress up and then rush to get back to boy mode with everything back exactly where it was before they got home.

LL: Did we share the same childhood? For me it was when my parents went out shopping. I was always terrified that they would come home and catch me. Did you ever get caught?

K: My luck ran out when I lost track of time and was caught, and lectured by both parents, and escorted to several psychologists until I was, "cured." Right!

LL: That's the most horrible thing that can happen to a young CD. How did that affect you?

K: My dad's interest in me really nosed dived after that and I felt very isolated and confused through junior and senior high. I did letter in sports and was fairly popular but my fantasy world was as strong as ever.

LL: Did you dress in college?

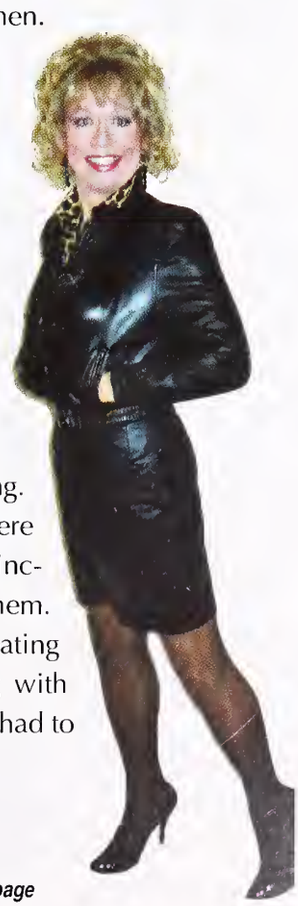
K: No. My feminine explorations went into hibernation in college though they were always on my mind. Palm pilot had a whole different meaning then.

LL: Oh, you're bad!

K: I envied women more and more as I grew older. I can't remember when I first discovered the phenomenon of female impersonation, but I think it was running across some used Irving Klaw booklets in an adult section of a used book store.

LL: How did that affect you?

K: Hit me like a bolt of lighting. Was this what I was? Here were others and they were very convincing. And I so wanted to be like them. I was bold but my heart was beating like crazy. And I was rooming with some guys from my new job so I had to be careful still.



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LL: I know exactly what you're talking about. Even though you got that early encouragement about femininity we all learn that it won't go over well if we tell anyone. What was your next step?

K: I had this constant battle in my head between fantasizing about being a woman and the reality of being a man. And I had no "courage" to commit to either. My heart ached for a sign. Then, two showed up at once. I ran across an old article on Christine Jorgensen, and I fell deeply in love for the first time.

LL: Oh boy, love can mess you up. How did that change your state of mind?

K: Now I felt really torn. I had found a woman who really loved all that I was as a man. I had become a very successful computer salesman with IBM, was confident, charming, handsome, pretty athletic, with a good circle of friends and by all appearances, on my way to a great life in my mid 20's. But I loved that maturing feminine part of me and I wanted to nourish that as well.

LL: Let me guess, you didn't tell her.

K: Yes, I clandestinely kept polishing my feminine self. I tried reading up on what I thought I may be, but found very little help. As I look back, I'm amazed I didn't go nuts, what with juggling a career, a relationship, friends, and this incredible confusion as to what I really was inside.

LL: Some poor souls don't cope with it well at all. Did you ever tell your first love about the part she hadn't met?

K: I finally revealed my passion for portraying my feminine side (without mentioning words like female impersonation, drag queen, sex change or queer) to my girlfriend and I convinced her to let me show her one night.

LL: Oh boy, that can be a scary move. How did it go?

K: My heart was in my throat when I came out of the bedroom and her look of surprise and fascination was incredible. I felt like an artist showing off his first painting and waiting breathlessly for the reaction. I was showing her an art form she never saw before.

LL: How did she take it?

K: She was fascinated at first but quickly had mixed emotions. This was her boyfriend and what did this all mean? That's where I was grateful for the incredible sales training and experience I had from my male job and I convinced her I was still me, just expressing myself and my feelings in a way I discovered gave me great joy.

LL: Hey, I've got some snowballs I'd like to sell in Alaska. After you closed the sale how did it go?

K: We had great fun with it after that and eventually worked it into our many activities as just something else we could share. Reflecting back, that really was something, but we were in an anything goes time of our lives and generation and just flowed with it as we did with other things we were learning about ourselves. Innocence was blissful.

LL: What was the next chapter in your life like?

K: We moved to San Francisco and got married in Hawaii. Here I was, living in San Francisco, making great money, discovering all kinds of mind expanding things, dressing up as I pleased and I was the happiest guy on Earth.

I wove my feminine side into our lives more and more (always in the apartment and eventually in the house we bought in Marin), and it seemed fine for about four years.

LL: Dum, da dum dum... What happened then?

K: As we matured we began to grow in different directions. We couldn't seem to get the magic back. Looking back I see we were both in crisis as individuals and were

agonizing separately about what we wanted out of life. This was the worse sadness I ever felt... and I couldn't stop it. We eventually divorced and went in different directions. I quit my job and went back to school for a doctorate in the health professions. I never saw her again.

LL: That is sad. But if it's like it was for me when I got divorced lo those many years ago I bet...

K: Right, that's when my feminine persona really blossomed. I sought out others like me and discovered there were groups of "TVs" meeting all over the bay area.

LL: What was your first interaction with other CDs?

K: My first attempt at meeting them was when I went to a Halloween party in Berkeley, not dressed. I met someone doing what I liked to do and she was very good at it. We talked and talked and she loved the attention I was giving her. I wanted to be around her so much that I agreed to be her "date" when she wanted to go out.

LL: There's a sudden switch. Now you're back in a male role dating a TG girl.

K: What a time we had, too. Dinner, movies, bar hopping, parties. She passed so well we could go anywhere. I was getting perfumed love letters and we were together as boyfriend/girlfriend constantly.

LL: How did that work for you?

K: Well, for one thing she introduced me to the BDSM community and a whole new awareness of the power of the feminine persona was unveiled to me. I was fascinated and discovered a whole new feminine persona I wanted to explore. God, we had fun times together. I seldom thought of her as a man, and we were very content to just play between 2nd and 3rd base for a long time.

LL: Did you stay together long?

K: She pushed the envelope and I backed away, and everything ground to a halt. After cooling off and realizing we couldn't continue as "lovers," she finally agreed to let Krystal emerge. Now we were "sisters" and I was OUT!

LL: So that's where you came from. What a journey. How did it feel to finally be out?

K: A rush like none I ever had. A birth of sorts.

continued on next page

LL: Most folks go from the closet to a support group and then out more in the "real" world. Did you ever get involved with the support group scene?

K: The "TV" community was still meeting in church social-like gatherings with a sort of AA atmosphere. I convinced some other TV friends to try a sort of social club where we would party, have fun and socialize in a more uplifting way. Six of us met for the first time in my apartment in Oakland, pot luck everything, picture taking, and fun had by all. What a departure from the old dull organizational meetings. The next month there were 15-20 and word was spreading. We had to find a bigger place. Well it took off and word spread and the group really began to grow. Theme parties, fashion shows, how-to seminars, and great networking. That was the start of ETVC (now TGSF) in San Francisco and it's grown into one of the biggest and best organizations of its kind in the country.

LL: That's great. We have a lot in common. JoAnn and I were founders of Renaissance in the Philly area and TGSF is a Renaissance affiliated group now. Small world, isn't it? Do you stay active with the group now?

K: No, but I was honored a few years back along with the other five founders of ETVC at the TGSF annual ball, the Cotillion, and that was a very emotional night. The group has helped so many deal with these complex issues in our lives, and their resources today are incredible.

LL: You've certainly come a long way and I think our readers will agree you look great. What's next?

K: Where am I in this big adventure? Probably where I started in many respects. There really is a duality to me that I have come to accept and cherish. And I love giving vent to both. At times there is no better feeling than being with the guys on a warm sunny day playing golf and having the shots go where I want. And sometimes there is nothing more soothing to my soul than spending the day as Krystal. I've been blessed with a face and figure that allows me, and others, to be in love with both sides of me.

LL: Others? Well, is there a special other now?

K: Not at the moment but I was recently in a long term relationship where once again both aspects of me were appreciated. I know that is when I am most at peace. These couplings are fragile and if relationship issues get rocky it seems they are harder to work out when the TG issue is there. I know I turn to Krystal in more stressful times of my life and that's the worst thing to do when trying to work through the anxieties of relationship issues. But we live and learn and I am anxious to try again. Anyone listening?

LL: Oh, after this interview you'll get plenty of mail, girl. How do you think we have integrated within society?

K: Society is somewhat better informed of our presence now, but a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, especially the way the media presents us most of the time.

LL: You say you like both sides of your nature. Is there anything that makes you feel one side has it better than the other?

K: As I look back, it's hard to say which part of me has had the most fun in life. I haven't quite lived two lives, but

it certainly feels like more than one. I don't think the grass is greener on the other side. It's green beneath my feet, whether it's in 4" spikes... or golf spikes.

LL: You had a "relationship" with the TG lady who helped you come out but you said you pulled back when she "pushed the envelope." Have you ever tried dating men?

K: I've dated men occasionally, but I got very tired of the hidden agendas they all had.

LL: Wow, your guys had their agendas hidden? All the ones who have approached me have been a bit more open about what they wanted. Sorry, I shouldn't have interrupted, please go on...

K: Women really do seem to value trust and honesty very highly and seeing how deceptive some men can be makes that so easy to understand.

LL: Quick question time. What was the greatest love of your life?

K: I've had some great loves in my life, but the best was when I learned to love myself. For some, that takes a lifetime. I played the hand I got; I didn't ask for a new deal. Not a bad hand as it turns out.

LL: Pick a label for you.

K: I love the term gender illusionist.

LL: Women, how do you feel about them, relate to them?

K: We can learn so much from women, especially about how to be happy and how to express and share that. Playing at being a woman has enriched my life in so many ways. I'll never be one and that's OK. So I'm grateful to have just learned how to tap into that special part of me that enables me to express myself in a much richer way. Weighing the good and bad of it all. I'm way under par (that's good for all you non golfers).

LL: Do you do ever speak on behalf of the community?

I've been on panels and spoken to college groups, and at sex education venues, but now I'm not much of a soap box queen anymore. Sort of been there, done that. That takes people with fresh enthusiasm.

LL: Are you active in any TG groups now?

K: I backed away from ETVC after a few years and returned to the night life and socializing independently with a small circle of friends. I love the variety and freedom of expression I feel when I'm just out and about with friends.

LL: How do you feel about the way we, as TGs, view ourselves?

K: We each have to define ourselves individually at some point and we are still discovering new ways to do that. I wonder how anyone else could hope to understand us when we have such varied and complex ways of describing ourselves. We have come a long way in this community in a very short time and certainly others are much more aware of us than when I first stepped out the door. It's exciting to watch our evolution and inclusion into our culture. Someday we'll be recognized and valued as the special people we are in our own culture as it is in others. We are all God's children, so keep your chin up, and powder your nose, and as Bill Murray used to say on SNL, "now get outta here, you knucklehead, I mean it."

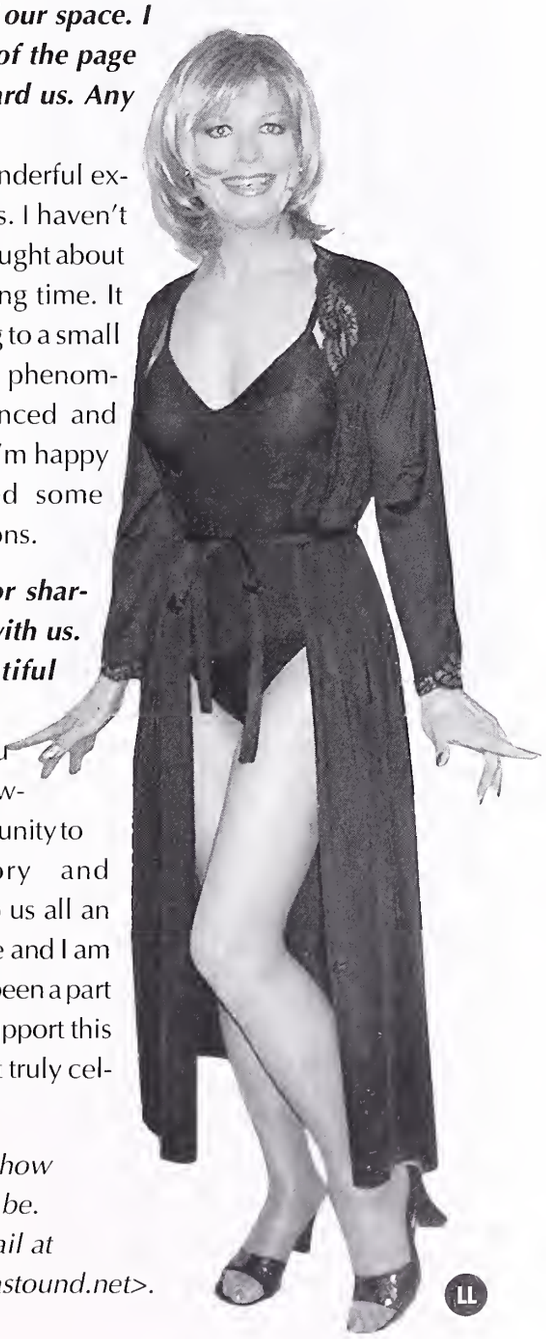
LL: Well that about brings us to the end of our space. I see the bottom of the page moving up toward us. Any final thoughts?

K: What a wonderful experience this was. I haven't sat down and thought about this stuff for a long time. It was great sharing to a small extent how this phenomenon has influenced and shaped my life. I'm happy if I've provoked some thoughts or actions.

LL: Thanks for sharing your story with us. You're a beautiful lady.

K: Thank you *LadyLike* for allowing me the opportunity to share my story and thoughts. You do us all an incredible service and I am honored to have been a part of your efforts. Support this magazine folks, it truly celebrates us all.

Show Krystal how popular she can be. Drop her an email at <KrystalBlack@astound.net>.



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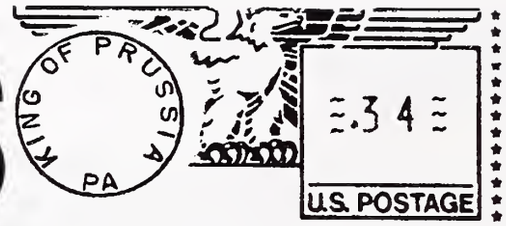

Photos Too Good For Reproduction

Thanks for another great Paradise in the Poconos event and the continuation of the classiest periodical ever created. It was such a pleasure getting to know

each of you better while socializing with all of the other wonderful folks at PIP. I don't know how you do it, but two years in a row you have paired me with very special roommates. I could not have asked for anyone more like a sister. Also a special thanks to the friendly helpful vendors who were all so much more like friends. Hopefully you can tell me how to contact our talented photographer. Although she told me to take the CD we made to any place to have more copies made, I have been denied the purchase of copies made on the Kodak picture makers at both Wal Mart and Target. It seems that they have a strict interpretation of the copyright law and with the pictures being so professional, I have been told that I need to produce the written permission of the photographer before being allowed to make copies.

It looks like my subscription to *LadyLike* ends with issue #48. LL has been my salvation, reading about other girls journeys to becoming who they are, the helpful hints, and of course Mirror/Mirror. It is so assuring to see that there are so many of us out there.

I also want to thank you for placing my picture in Mirror/Mirror in a prior issue. Since that has been awhile ago, I am also enclosing some pics taken since November. You have been so accommodating before, that I had told my roommate and friends at PIP to look for me. Hopefully you will find some of them good enough for your next publication.

Once again, a word of thanks to you both for all that you do.

Susan

Angela says: Thanks for all of your praise. It's what keeps us going. That and the two year renewal check! I can't tell you how to contact the Poconos photographer. JoAnn keeps that info close to her designer vest. But, I promise to ask her to help you get the info. Imagine that, a CD with a CD that she can't use.

The CDs Are Alright

Dear JoAnn: I recently read my first issue of LL (#46) and was quite impressed with the sense of community. I have been incarcerated a number of years and though there was a sense of community in clubs or transgender social circles when I was home, there was no social voice in most areas. I am not a CD/TV but the better relationships in my life have been with transgender females. After reading this issue of LL I felt compelled to write and offer a bit of encouragement to you and those in the community striving to explore their true identities or support the community.

Decorating or exploring our bodies – for ritual, beauty or performance – reflects on tradition. Our community is of cultural significance and has produced many social and fashion traditions. From our Hawaiian ladies exhibiting island wear to our Northern ladies sporting provocative underwear hidden beneath wool skirts and sweaters, our special ladies have altered every culture from which they emerged.

Clothing conceals and reveals our inner natures. From the significance of the veil in India to that of intricacies of the Imperial Japanese kimono, the article of clothing a lady chooses is an expression of that person. Every article of clothing, makeup or accessory is an unspoken statement.

There is no ugliness, per se, in our community, be it your first time out, exploring in the mirror, or living as a woman for the past 20 years. Every special lady has her own beauty. Our community's beauty is in your hearts, desires and courage to be yourself. Our community's strength is and should be in the love and support for each other. Your support, JoAnn, of the transgender community and your voice via *LadyLike* is a remarkable step toward informing the community. You have the power vested in your magazine to speak up for the community and you do so loudly.

My message to all those in the community striving to live their lives is to make radical and courageous choices: choosing love over fear, joy over cynicism, activism over inertia, and truth over denial. It is your lives, your community, your mirror...

Best wishes for the future. If you or any of your subscribers would like to write, please feel free.

Thomas J. Torrence, 94651 F3A-253, PO Box 2951202, Bennettsville, SC 29512-5902

The Girl With The Perfectly Spaced Eyes

Dear Angela: I enjoyed the special feature called The Eyes Have It in *Ladylike* #47. I was pleased to note that my eyes are spaced perfectly!! I tried the tips as directed and was pleased with the results. I've attended a lot of JoAnn's makeup workshops at Paradise In the Poconos and can guarantee all the girls learn tons of valuable info at these workshops. I've included some pics I hope you can use.

Cena Williams

A Weekly?

Dear JoAnn, et. al.: Has it been two years already? It seems so much longer, time really drags while anxiously waiting for the next issue. Would you consider publishing weekly? Just kidding.

$5 donation to the TGF fund! No way! You'll damn well accept $15. That's because LL is three times better than the competition publications. I don't mean to say the competition isn't worth having (I subscribe to several just to bridge the gap between your mailings) it's just that you're better. Although

your photos could be larger, you do offer a lot of unused space on most of your Mirror/Mirror pages.

I feel that I am a unique supporter of LL. I posses the entire collection of LL, in excellent condition or better (only a few in VG) I wonder how many of us complete collectors are out here?

An idea for an article, purging, how to, when to, why to. I am getting "up in years" and find my desire to dress diminishing to the point of "why bother." I would not want the person(s) who would settle my affairs to realize my secret. But, on the other hand I don't feel justified giving a regular charity(s) perhaps $10,000 (retail) worth of clothes, shoes, etc. that are in excellent condition. I would prefer my "things" go to other CDs. A "loan closet" for those "in the closet". A bit of humor here.

Enough rambling, Ellen, #2710

Ange replies: One time a few years back a Renaissance member passed away. She had told her daughters about her dressing and told them to take all her stuff to the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. This was both a boon and a problem for the group. The lady who had moved on to that big vanity in the sky had neglected to tell the group of her intended bequest. She was also a clothing (and accessories, and shoe, and, well, everything) collector. She had two entire rooms of her home turned into walk in closets. Her daughters had to rush in and get all of the stuff out and into a storage space before others came into the house. They were successful in getting everything removed but had to pay storage fees while they arranged to bring several loads to the Ren meeting for a big sale. The group had to turn its whole meeting site into a store to accommodate it all. In the end the Chapter raised several hundred dollars by auctioning many items and having a tag sale on the other stuff. (The daughters got some of the revenue also.) So, I would think that if you contacted a group that you wished to support and made them aware that you had a bequest (or a donation) perhaps they would be happy to make arrangements to be available when necessary to take your things.

A Willing Victim

Dear *LadyLike*: Thank you for printing my photograph in your issue #47. I'm enclosing a couple more pictures of me that I hope you will be kind enough to print? I've just renewed my subscription and I always enjoy your magazine when it arrives. I would be happy to be interviewed, if you were looking for a subject for a magazine article?

Hugz, Janie Martin, POB 26691, Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Candy's Coming Out

Dearest JoAnn: I'm sorry to be always sending pictures, but picking out ones to come to you is one of the most fun things I do. Hopefully, I keep getting better at it. In Atlanta I was accused of not looking too preacherly in the hotel. The first picture was my usual attire in the hotel. To prove I can look genteel the next two are of the pastor. The next is the gorgeous formal that I got in Lennox Mail and wore to the Atlanta Symphony. The last two are the return of the "tart." I know you hate getting my piles of pictures, but in a real sense Candy was given birth via your event so I keep you up on her progress. Thanks for your patience.

I sincerely hope that you and Angela never tire of hearing what you do for so many people. I just returned from Southern Comfort, and I not only did the hotel, but I did Atlanta, too. Me the shy small town pastor went all over Atlanta dressed to the hilt. I went on main street, to the biggest mall in Atlanta, to 5-star restaurants, to the symphony, and other places. I was with two girls that I met last year in the Poconos. We had the best week of my life. My self-confidence level zoomed, and I even winked and smiled when "read." It could have never happened had I not had that time there last November. I only wish everyone who wants a life beyond the closet would spend those few days in "Paradise." I even saw girls that I remembered. I got to visit with Angela, and "man" her TCN table for a little. My life will never be the same again, and Honey, I am loving it. There are some fantastic people in the world, and a whole bunch of 'um are CDs.

Candy, P.O. Box 1148 Carthage, N.C. 28327

The Accidental Crossdresser

Hello JoAnn and Angela!: First, I must say how much I appreciate your magazine. You put out a consistently excellent publication that I always find entertaining Its wonderful to have *LadyLike* as "the bar" to reach for, good articles, good writers, and some of your reader's photos have made my jaw drop.

I started this almost by accident last April, trying on a dress that came with several boxes of "to-the-churchstore" goods. Though I have always enjoyed the feeling of triacetates, silk and nylon on my ladyfriends, it never occurred to me that I'd want to actually don these wonderful bits. Well! As soon as I added stockings and heels, I got that added taste of femininity, and it simply built on itself. I found a good wig (bought retail from an open-minded clerk at a major department store), milady advised me on buying and using makeup, and I became a discriminating shopper, with definite tastes in colors, jewelry, and shoe styles.

Since then, I've managed to come out with a

vengeance, shopping and dining enfemme, and clubbing happily with other local CDs. As well, I'm quite active on the alt.fashion.crossdressing and alt.support.crossdressing newsgroups, contribute regularly to the Yahoo ClosetedCrossdresser group, and now edit the local Illusions newsletter (anyone who wants a copy of the latest should email me at shae@tic.ab.ca). Sadly, for all my enthusiasm, I'll never be any more than a guy-in-a-dress, due to far too many serious physical pursuits, leaving me with a powerlifter's physique and a skinny butt. Sigh. At least the legs are decent.

A few things have added to this positive experience. First, I told my lady about this interest within ten days of discovering it Her main comment was that I was the last person she would have expected to do this, but that she still saw me as me. She's now quite keen on the situation. Second, the attitude toward alternative lifestyles in general, and drag and crossdressing in particular, seems to be softening Most people will accept another's preferences, and even show a sense of humor about it "as long as nobody's getting hurt." Finally, *Ladylike* magazine itself propounds a full feminine experience, and

continued on page 13

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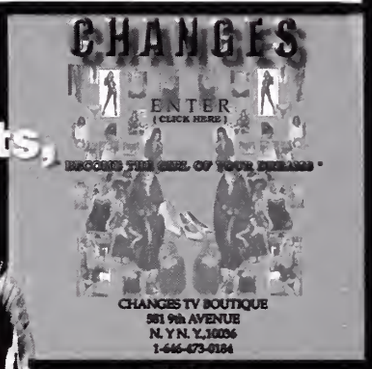

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Letters...

encourages a particular style of crossdressing that excludes tackiness and poor taste. Truly, pushing a "ladylike" way of expressing oneself can only be positive.

Any letter to you folks would be remiss without commenting on individual writers and readers. Brenda Lawrence's columns are always a fine read, though I was somewhat taken aback by her medical issues related in #46 (oh, Brenda, I do hope things work out well for you!). Foxy Roxy is always a hoot to read, and Ms. Bob and Carol Kleinmaier do fabulous history.

Darlana Stevens, covergirl on #43, showed exactly what makes a true Lady: when her mom flattered her, she said, "I know... I look like you." Wow!

And the Mirror/Mirror girls! Lynnea Stuart and Cynthia May have fabulous smiles, as evidenced in #41. Michelle P. and Tina Rapport in #25 are stunning and Melissa Franks looks so sweet it hurts. From issue #47, I must comment upon Sammy and Foxy Roxy (yum, babes!), and especially the girls my own age: Gwen, Candy, and June F. Gnills. As well, there's this JoAnn wench who's been in every issue, stunning to look at, a good writer, generally a great role model (well done!).

Shae, e-mail: shae@tic.ab.ca, Shae Guerin, Box 75814, Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6E 6K1

PS: Here's some contacts in Canada:

Illusions' Social Club, Box 356, Edm AB T5J 2P2 (780424-2685), The Cornbury Society, Box 3745, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z1 (604-862-1321), Xpressions, Box 223, Station A Toronto, ON M5W 1B2, Masquerade c/o Lady Godiva Boutique, 832 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, , MB R2M OY2.

The Long Thank You

Dear LL: I see the words, which I want to express, are expressed so often in your pages of letters. I don't want to be redundant but, at the same time, I do want to add my, "Thank You," to your list.

I'm a new subscriber. The previous issues of your magazine I've either purchased from your website on an individual basis or purchase at my favorite boutique. It all started, when I saw an old magazine of yours. Issue #24. The cover sold me. Pretty and contemplative at the same time. It was in that magazine's, "Resources," section that I started to search for a group in Massachusetts. Until a year ago this past October, my only time spent being, "dressed," was in my Suburban coming home from work. I had to keep changing the parking spots each night. On Thursday nights, when my wife played bingo, I would take the hour trip to Auburn, Massachusetts to visit the boutique. (They're one of your advertisers. Inside the back cover.)

Then, on that fateful day in October, Susan was born. My wife had come home from the hospital one day early! I was at work and a neighbor picked her up. That past week, my clothes weren't in the car as usual, they were in our bedroom!

We talked and talked. While she wishes it would stop, she knows that my crossdressing is a part of me. It's been almost fourteen months since that night. These days, she'll help me with my eyeliner and she'll iron my blouses if they need it after I do our wash. She's the one that took all the pictures that I've enclosed. After I promised not to tell the kids what she got me for our anniversary (last June was our 34th), she gave me a new purse and a pretty and unique charm bracelet, which I love to wear.

While, I am most thankful for the numerous books, which I've purchased via your website, I am most grateful for that, "Resources," section in this magazine. I joined the Tiffany Club of New England last April. I am so glad I did. I even make use of their, "You're Not Alone," meeting nights. The girls that I've met there are wonderful. To paraphrase Will Rogers, "I've never met a crossdresser I didn't like." As so many of your readers have indicated in the past, I would have loved it, if I knew that I wasn't, "alone," when I was in grammar school and high school. I had thought, that I was, indeed, the only

person in the world with my desires and needs.

By agreement with my better-half, the neighbors are not to know nor are the other two kids and grandchildren to know. Our youngest found out very shockingly. All the kids are out and on their own. The youngest visited and came up stairs to say hello. I was in the computer room and dressed! "Dad, why are you dressed like that?" I told him that it was some old habits that I got tired of fighting anymore. He almost blew one of his exams at college. He had mellowed by a year ago this past Thanksgiving but he doesn't want to talk about it, doesn't want to see it.

Well, it's getting late and work comes early. I was "dressed" all day, while I did the dishes, three loads of laundry, and prepared dinner for the two of us. I did go upstairs just before dinner to change to a prettier skirt and slip into my favorite patent leather high heels. I feel prettier in patent leather "heels," and I need all the help I can get. I also put on the new Christmas charm bracelet she got for me. This encyclical is probably too long for your, "Letters..." section but my main purpose was to say, "Thank You." You may edit it if you need to. There is a lot of verbiage here.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely, Susan Pauline Bauer, Brockton, MA, Jazz_Scouter@msn.com

PS: Your editorial on being "over dressed" came at the right time. I never thought of it from the observer's point of view.

What About The Lonely Spouse?

Dear JoAnn and Staff: I am way past due in telling you all what a fantastic publication you put out. *LadyLike* has meant so much to me over the past few years that I have been a reader. It goes way beyond

just entertainment, to include the therapeutic. You have made me feel good about myself, and broadened my horizons and my outlook on my life. I have corresponded with and become friends with so many sisters, and for that richness alone I thank you.

Of course, like all of my sisters, I love Mirror/Mirror, so I am including another batch of pictures with this letter. Now, I have another request for any sisters who might be able to help. As a married crossdresser, my spouse and I must face CD issues together. And, our issues are many and they are large. My request is this: are there married sisters out there who have a spouse willing to correspond with my spouse, and share mutual problems, feelings, and experiences in order to better come to terms with sharing life with a crossdressing husband? If so, I hope that you will write to me and perhaps we could all end up with better understanding and better living. My spouse is a lovely, fun and vivacious person, but this part of her life is terribly lonely, because she cannot talk to anyone about it.

Sincerely, Dee Sinclair, PO Box 210841, Columbia, SC 29221-0841

Angela says: I don't know how your wife has time to be lonely Dee. You included 19 photos with your letter. She must be terribly busy with what with taking the pictures and

continued on page 15

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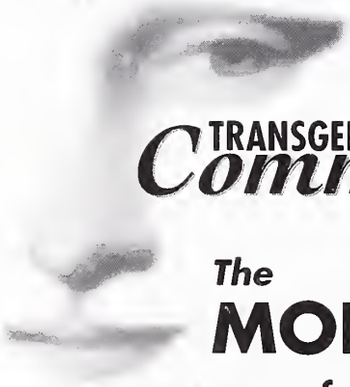

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Letters...

running out to get the processing done. (I like the short blonde look pictured here on you best. Very natural.) Hopefully some of our readers will tell their SOs of your request and the letters for her will pour in soon. If you want a resource in the community that is primarily for spouses you should contact the Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education. This is a conference where you are not allowed to crossdress (I know it sounds cruel but this one is for your spouse. Grin and bear it) and the focus is on partner issues. Write to SPICE c/o Peggy Rudd, 8880 Bellaire B2 #104, Houston, TX 77036. You can bring a nightie to wear in your hotel room at the conference but no public dressing.

Kick Out The Cobwebs!

I have been a subscriber to *LadyLike* almost from the beginning... and have seen this publication go from lousy advertising to becoming a real asset to the crossdressing community. I have contributed a small part in years past, but recently, the ravages of age have reached into my life, slowing down the mind, causing those lapses commonly called 'Senior Moments.' it has also slowed down the stream of comments and observations I was prone to offer.

My life has taken a turn for the better recently by doing something so simple it often passes everybody by, physical exercise on a regular basis! It has removed the cobwebs amazingly well, and made it easier to complete a day's work in two days now, instead of five! Result, see the enclosed photos!

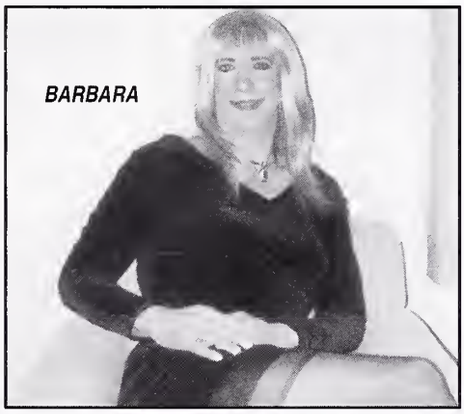
I hope these pictures are evidence that it is not necessary to put on the glitz or strike an exaggerated pose to express our femininity. I have often wondered why most of the pictures published in the last few issues do not really reflect the neat lady that usually lurks just below the surface, where the true personality may reside. We work so hard to meld in to the passing scene in everyday life, and then dress and conduct ourselves like some sexy kitten. This may be important to the younger generations, but I find at 72 that is in the past. I only want to be seen as the successful matron I have become, dressed neatly with elegance, understated, displaying supreme confidence in my competence. I believe I have achieved that state, and hopefully you can see the results very plainly. (At least, I see it!)

I apologize that my Volvo is not my restored 1966 Dodge Charger muscle car for the next hot rod issue, but this Volvo melds in with the image I have so carefully cultivated. I hope you can print at least one of these photos in an upcoming issue, preferably in color in Mirror/Mirror!

Yours in all the good stuff... Lois E. Fisher, P. O. Box 3781, Eureka, CA 95502-3781

First Time Pocono Raves

Dear JoAnn: I am writing to tell you what a wonderful time I had a Paradise in the Poconos. Congratulations to you and everyone else who worked



so hard to put together such a terrific event.

This was my first year there, or at any major CD event for that matter, and I was overwhelmed. The experience of spending the entire weekend enfemme with so many other girls was exhilarating, liberating and just a whole lot of fun. Girls – if you haven't attended this event yet you should. You owe it to yourself.

I took advantage of the opportunity to have my first professional makeover and photo session and absolutely loved it! Through out the weekend though the best part was the people. Everyone, without exception, was exceptionally friendly and supportive. The vendors and resort staff couldn't seem to do enough for us. The other participants, and you all know who you are, well, it just got better as we got to know each other. I hope I've initiated friendships that will last a really long time. Count me in for next year. Girls, if you've been thinking about it, do it! You'll be glad you did!

Once again I've enclosed a couple of recent photos, including one from my photo shoot, that I hope you'll include in a future *LadyLike*.

Thanks again, Barbara Roberts, PO Box 6372, Baltimore, MD 21230-0371.

She's Got Friends

Dear LL: Congratulations on continuing to publish the highest quality magazine that serves our community. The articles are always informative and the Profile is always presented with class and dignity. I have purchased every copy since issue #23 and each issue is a treasure in and to itself.

In the past you have been kind enough to publish some of my pictures in your publication. I have been able to make several good friends as a result of my pictures being published. In fact, I have received letters from all over the world as a result of *Ladylike*. You truly must have an international following.

Truly yours, Jessica M., PO Box 6120-331, Newport Beach, CA 92658.

Loves The Daughters of Sappho

Hi JoAnn and Angela: Well ladies, you've done it again, another great issue of *Ladylike*! I was surprised to read so many letters from girls still in the closet. Well, Ladylike helped me out of the closet in under a year. Maybe it will work for the other girls also. LadyLike built up my self esteem! I still don't know any sisters other than my good sisters from LL. But I go to a club and found a lot of new friends. Lesbian sisters! I'm at a loss for words when it comes to these ladies. They accept me as one of their own. I've never felt our of place. They treat me like one of the girls. They know I'm transgendered and it doesn't bother them. Also, they have been helping me with my feminine image. I guess what I'm trying to say is there are a lot of people out there that do like us for who we are. You just can't be scared. You got to get out and meet them!

Well ladies, keep up the out standing work because your helping all of us girls.

All my love, Alison Van Horn, PMB 350, 15 Paradise Place, Sarasota, FL 34239-6905

continued on page 42

To Goddess & Beyond...

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▲ The Princess & Her Court for 2000, (l. to r.): Candy (Ms. Congeniality); Dee (Ms. Ingenue); Karen (Ms. Sophistication), and (seated) Sandy Page (Princess of the Poconos).

▲ The Princess & Her Court for 2001, (l. to r.): Kathleen (Ms. Ingenue); Jackie (Ms. Sophistication), Roxy (Ms. Congeniality) and Karen (Princess of the Poconos).

Paradise In The Poconos 2001

▲ Three of the five co-founders of Renaissance: (l. to r.) Melanie Bryant, JoAnn Roberts, & Angela Gardner.

Photos were provided by Denise Mason, Diane Dale, Ellen Warren, Kim Beck, and Misty.

▶ Laurie Flaquer takes a digital photo of Amanda Richards

▲ Denise Mason (l.) and Misty.

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This Season is an exciting time for us here at AFI. We are presenting our fourth season of new clothing especially made for the crossdresser community. We have added many new exciting styles and colors and hope that you will enjoy the correctly fitting garments made with wider shoulders, lowered waistlines, longer sleeves and more narrow hips. We strive for the best overall fit for our customers and feedback has been very positive with all of our pieces. If you want to see a free brochure of our best selling items, Please call 1-800-222-1427 to receive a free color brochure or if you want the full catalog, then send $3.00 to the address listed below and we will be sure to get a catalog right out to you. To order any clothing listed below - put your chest and waist size on the order form here and we will send you the correctly sized item.

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Paradise In The Poconos 2002

It's time to register for the 2002 ***Paradise In The Poconos*** event. We return to the same fabulous facility we've used for the last several years. Every room is a deluxe accommodation. The facilities available include a heated indoor pool with an adjacent jacuzzi, an authentic English pub, our very own nightclub for the talent show, and a great game room. There are also large meeting spaces for workshops and other sessions. All of the services and facilities are accessible through enclosed walkways without ever going outside. Best of all, the entire resort is *exclusively ours* for the weekend!

The weekend is designed to give you an opportunity to live out your fantasy. Dress to your heart's content. Bring your entire wardrobe! The people you'll meet at the event are some of the nicest you'll ever meet anywhere. They come from different backgrounds, but they all share the same desire: to get away and let "her" roam free. We also encourage and welcome couples to attend. This is a great place to get to know your partner better.

This event gives you an opportunity to refine your skills in makeup, hair styling, and dress. Attend one of the free workshops and learn new techniques. Buy and sell clothes at the Tag Sale; you could come home with a whole new wardrobe. Whip up your wildest outfit for a costume contest and win a prize. Maybe you'll be the next Princess of the Poconos. Who knows? Fill out the registration form and send it in now, before there's no room at the inn. We've had to turn away people every year. Don't get shut out of one of the best events around.

▲ Two of our great vendors: Vicki Easterling (l.) from Expressive Hair and Lori from Donna's Hair Studio One.

▲ These are three of the house staff partying with us in the bar.

▲ The lovely Randi Thomas does a sound check before the talent show.

As with last year, you have a choice of a Wednesday or Thursday arrival. Whichever you choose, your package includes a welcome reception, 3 parties, 4 workshops, all meals, lodging, taxes and gratuity. The costs are: Wed. to Sun., single $715; Wed. to Sun., shared $590 each; Thurs. to Sun., single $585, and Thurs. to Sun., shared $460 each. A US$200 refundable deposit will hold your reservation. Make checks and money orders payable to CDS and mail with the registration form to:

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The Paradise In The Poconos weekend has been produced by JoAnn Roberts, her partner Betty, and their friends since 1986. They have made every effort to create an event that will be a memorable experience for everyone involved.

Please note: This is *not* a therapy weekend. Or, if you're looking for a support group, this ain't it! If you're looking to make friends, have loads of fun, and crossdress to your heart's content without anyone hassling you, dis iz da place!

Paradise In The Poconos 2001

▲ The ever-so-subtle Witches of Queens (Jaini and Kathy) help Morgan celebrate her birthday by licking off the nipples on the bitrhday cake.

▲ Morgan Stevens, one of our favorite people, celebrated a BIG birthday this past year.

▲ A few of the girls pose for some "casual" photos just before the Princess Promenade.

Diane Dale. ▼

▲ Ellen Warren enjoying the weekend.

▲ Lisa. She rode around the whole weekend on a mini-scooter.

▲ Roxy Wilson (Ms. Congeniality & LL#45 Profile Girl) at left & Ms. Melissa Franks.

▲ Deb (l.) & Melissa

▼ Allison (l.) & Barbara (r.)

Jeri ▶

▼ Joanne

▼ Pat

Commentary by Brenda Lawrence

Chocolate - Not Just For Breakfast Anymore!

WARNING! If you are on a diet or restricted to a low calorie regimen, or have a weak stomach when in comes to stuffing your face with food, or the will power of a piece of paper floating in the wind, then do not read any further!

Okay, you've been warned. I am a **professional** chocoholic. I'm sure there are many of you out there who **think** you are a pretty fair consumer of chocolate and never miss the chance to savor the delicious taste of Nature's "purr"fect food. But let me put it this way: I'll take on the entire lot of you, all at once, and put you away with one chocolate stained hand tied behind my back! In my early drafts I had to rewrite that sentence many times to remove the sexual connotations, i.e. "blow you away", "eat you under the table", etc. – given the group I'm writing for!

For example, while visiting a friend in Las Vegas recently (he's also a fairly active chocoholic), we had dinner at a very large buffet in an even larger casino (like, what else is there in Vegas?) with some neighbors of his. Naturally, I viewed the dessert bar first as I selected the main course. That way I could determine just how much nonessential food I'd need before getting to the real goodies. As we all were cleaning off our plates, the conversation turned to chocolate when this neighbor's wife mentioned some of the great looking chocolate offerings on the dessert bar (Bar? This "bar" was 25 feet long on 4 sides!). She claimed she was a chocoholic, and a few others (my friend included) brought up their love of the substance, and how they couldn't resist eating it if offered the chance.

Did you note the "offered" part? Offered my big toe, I **demand** it! When I visit someone's home, my first words are "what kind of chocolate do you have?" My length of stay may even depend on their supply. Anyway, I got up from the table and announced that I was ready for some "dessert." I returned to the table carrying a full-sized dinner plate. On it was my "dessert." A large piece of 5-layer chocolate cake with chocolate frosting. On top of that was chocolate pudding, chocolate ice cream all covered with chocolate syrup and chocolate sprinkles. I couldn't find any more chocolate things on the "bar," and the entire concoction was starting to spill over the side of the plate anyway, but the comments really flew. I told them I was a bit disappointed as I couldn't find any Hershey's Kisses to add! I washed it all down with a glass of chocolate milk.

I was declared the World Class Chocoholic at that table. Yup, that's me, a white male, self-employed, auto mechanic, crossdressing, chocaholic. According to the feminists, I'm their worst enemy!

YES! I've known this friend over 20 years and once we discovered our mutual fetish with chocolate, we would send each other crazy chocolate presents every year, trying our best to outdo the last gift. I once wrote Hershey and found they made a 10 pound Hershey Bar – he got it in the mail. He ate the entire thing and framed the wrapper and mounted it on his den wall like a trophy. The following year I one upped him by sending him a very large box filled with nearly 800 chocolate candy bars (he sat and counted every one – I just kept adding till the box was full). It took him a while, but he consumed every one of them! His present to me was a 10 pound can of chocolate pudding, which didn't last me a week.

I've had chocolate from around the globe. Recently I experienced Russian chocolate; not as sweet as American chocolate, but very tasty nonetheless. For down right great chocolate, nothing beats the ever popular Hershey Bar. My hands down favorite candy bar is MOUNDS. In fact, I'm munching on one right now as I type this, but I have to be careful as I can never get enough of them. I generally go through a ½ lb of Tootsie Rolls on an average day – the little ones you buy in bulk.

Without a doubt my mom was the greatest chocolate chip cookie maker in the world. Everyone who tasted her cookies declared that as well. What is even better is the raw

cookie batter. As a kid I always got to clean out the bowl she mixed the batter in, and I found that to be even tastier than the finished cookie. My wife will occasionally mix a batch for me for dessert but she hasn't made the cookies in years. I'd much rather eat the dough... and do!

Another favorite of mine is chocolate cake with chocolate pudding on it — YUM!

Here's another yummy snack favorite: get a large Tupperware bowl and dump in two one pound bags of M&M's, then a 16 ounce jar of dry roasted nuts, and a small box of raisins. Mix it all up, then try to resist eating the whole thing at one time!

Many of you who correspond with me have noticed the gumball machine filled (well, not always filled) with M&M's that's in the backdrop of my pictures in my bedroom. Or the little toy trucks on display that are filled (again, not always) with Kisses or Tootsie Rolls. We're talking serious chocolate addiction here.

I can personally guarantee you that eating just one of my mom's chocolate chip cookies would raise your cholesterol level about 30 points (and no one could stop with just one) because of all the so called "bad" things she baked them with. Today, anything that tastes good is considered bad for us.

However, in recent years there have been some studies done that suggest that maybe chocolate isn't all that bad and, in fact, might be good for us. I've got an article right in front of me from the *Las Vegas Review Journal* dated February 8, 2000 and the story is titled *Chocolate Offers Health Benefits*. You knew that would get my attention! In it, Ms. Patty Zedek, a registered dietitian at the Medical Diet Clinic in Las Vegas states, "... an ounce and a half of chocolate has the same amount of heart-protective antioxidants found in a glass of red wine. These types of phenol substances help to prevent fatty deposits from clogging arteries."

WELL! There you go! My arteries must be squeaky clean and pumping blood (or is it chocolate syrup) like no tomorrow! Naturally I put this article on top of all those that warn of stuffing your pudgy little face full of this infectious treat to the point of becoming obese. This story also pointed out that women more commonly crave chocolate than men. See, I come by it honestly, girls! Since I don't drink I had to do something to keep my self "healthy." One has to wonder if a person were both an alcoholic and a chocoholic, would that person live forever? More than likely they wouldn't give a damn at that point!

It is well known that eating chocolate makes you feel good. Kind of like the way putting on a new dress does. Studies have shown that eating chocolate releases endorphins, neurotransmitters in the brain that make you feel good. The way I see it (not that it's a stretch or I'm in any way biased), being a crossdresser and a chocoholic all ties together in one neat little package. So, I'm wolfing down the last of my Mounds Bar to stay nice and healthy, but only because I am a woman at heart.

I will confess to one and all that I did cut out all chocolate, as well as other sweets, when I dieted to get in better shape. But that was only temporary. While I've stayed away from other junk food and sweets, I am back to enjoying my chocolate. Just look at that gorgeous body that accompanies this article – it was "built by chocolate!" Oh yes, I have eaten chocolate cake and ice cream for breakfast... often in fact! I can just picture the expression on some of your faces! Just be sure you have a good supply of chocolate on hand if I ever visit your house.

Anyone seen my glass of chocolate milk?

Mirror Mirror

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Send Your Photos!

Gettin' In Trouble Again

Dear JoAnn;

Sorry for the long delay, but I just hadn't gotten into any trouble recently, even though I've been dressing up and going out in drag to the straight nightclubs every Friday and Saturday night solo!

A Change of Pace

As you know, a long time ago I stopped going to my local gay bars in favor of the more challenging 'straight' clubs. Recently I decided to change my 'dangerous' pace from the risky Mexican Cowboy bars to the safe, romantic atmosphere of the local Hilton Hotel downtown. It houses a large circular cocktail bar in the Grand Room downstairs and a Disco dance club next door. When I arrive I am nervous as hell making my way through the crowd of well-dressed couples and singles, looking for a place to sit at the bar. Is my skirt too short? Are my heels too high? Is my makeup overdone? Am I walking like a man? Why is the security cop staring at me? Amidst the sound of social banter of people having a good time I sit myself at a barstool and try to blend in. I place my purse on the bar and prepare to order a drink from one of the busy bartenders. My voice is normally uni-sex so I order with confidence.

The Men Approach

I cross my legs carefully and soon a few interested men approach from either side and, as I nervously sip my drink, I can see them observing me from out of the comer of my eye. They are probably trying to figure out why my nose is so big or why my shoulders are so broad. Nevertheless, a man will give in to curiosity and ask if anyone is sitting next to me — that's how they break they ice, I've noted. He'll introduce himself and ask if I go there often or if I'm enjoying myself. Since I've yet to spook anyone, I shed my nervousness and soon I'll engage him in wonderful conversation from the weather, to sports, to music. I know I've won his approval when he asks to buy me a drink. Unlike at the other bars, these well-dressed professionals have more class than to ask if I'm a boy or girl. And I'll bet they know what they're dealing with — these men are not drunk or stupid. But I continue playing the part without caving in.

The Good Night Farewell

Time goes by fast when I'm having a good time in the company of a man who is treating me every bit like a lady. I feel accepted and pretty soon even the security cop no longer has his scrutinizing stare on me! The bartender announces 'last call' and it's time to drink up. I don't like to give my phone number to strangers so, if he asks, I'll give him my email address to be safe. When the bar closes he'll help me with my coat as I struggle and pray that I don't pop a button! And as we walk to my vehicle I can't help but wonder if he's going to attempt to kiss me or if we'll simply shakes hands. At the end my fears are unfounded when it turns out we say goodbye and part with a simple but friendly hug! On the drive home I ponder what it would've been like if I were to have instigated a goodnight kiss!

Go Out There and Enjoy Yourself

So girls, if you act like a lady, you'll be accepted and treated like a lady in 'straight' settings. I don't easily pass but yet I've gone to Weddings, Quincefteras (Mexican Sweet 16 celebration), Anniversaries and even family birthday celebrations with approval and admiration from people I thought were going to object. Heteros will surprise you!

Your friend,
Roxy

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Acceptance — What Does It Mean?

Wendi Jackson

Nearly all transgendered people, at some time or other, will discuss how accepting their spouse, significant other or family is. This subject is extremely important to those us who are in that kind of relationship and where we are concerned about the one(s) we love.

Recently I was sending e-mail to a sister. I was trying to put a percentage on how accepting my wife was of my hobby, when it struck me for the first time that there were really two terms that dealt with the subject of the transgendered person and their relationship to their wife/significant other/family. These two terms were relatively independent of each other. The terms are 'acceptance' and 'supportive'.

As I was trying to assign a percentage to how accepting my wife was, I used a relatively high number. The more I thought of that number the more I thought that it was overstating her 'acceptance' level. For many years she has been very empathetic of my need to dress, attend meetings, etc., but she still is not comfortable with the fact that I am transgendered. At that point, I decided that there were two issues involved. Her 'acceptance' level was not nearly as high on the acceptance scale as I would have liked. But, just as importantly to our relationship, was that she was 'supportive' of my need to dress. When I looked at what she encouraged me to do, i.e., dress when I needed to, correspond with other like-minded individuals, attend support group meetings and conventions, etc., it dawned on me, how 'supportive' she was - a much different concept than 'accepting'.

Based on my epiphany (who knows why it took so long!) I felt that each relationship between a transgendered person and wife/significant other/family consisted of two different measurable scales – 'acceptance level' and 'support level'. Ideally a couple's relationship would be high on both scales, but I theorize that only a minority number of relationships are in that category. I have no statistics to support that theory. It is only an observation on my part. Many transgendered individuals would be happy for a wife/significant other that rates on the upper half of the supportive scale even though that same person might not be as high on the accepting scale as one would like.

One of the many dictionary definitions for support is "to tolerate." By inference, a person who does not support is "intolerant." Many of our sisters are in relationships where the wife/significant other is neither accepting nor supportive. Stress, anxiety and hiding are natural results.

In summary, I see two measuring scales, 'acceptance' and 'support'. Each has a continuum from low to high. Where a relationship fits on these individual scales can create a wide range of possibilities. It does seem highly unlikely though that a relationship could be high on the accepting scale and low on the supportive scale.

If transgendered individuals are in relationships where the transgender issue is out in the open, I suspect (unsupported statistically) that most transgendered individuals are in relationships where the wife/significant other is much higher on the 'support' scale than the 'acceptance' scale.

The above are my ideas and thoughts. Any input, supportive or non-supportive, with your thoughts would be appreciated.

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Candy, NC - FWD3832 ▼

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Steve Diet Goedde — Fetish Postcards

Steve Diet Goedde started taking fetish photographs in 1991 in Chicago. In the years prior to 1991, he had interests in both photography and fetishism but had never combined the two. To him, erotic photography seemed too obvious a road to take. So for years, he declined to pursue it. "Erotic photography is such an obvious genre for people who want to take photos," says Goedde. "I knew that if I were to ever take erotic photographs, there would have to be an emphasis on the photography and not the subject matter. Most people who like eroticism in art only appreciate it for it's titillating qualities and not the artistic aesthetics."

One day, Goedde and his girlfriend at the time decided to take some photographs of her wearing some of her latex attire. Thinking that they were being risque back them, he declined to photograph her face. He shot one roll of film (fifteen exposures) which ended up producing about five of Goedde's most famous images to this day. This batch of photographs included his signature photograph of the latex clad hands. The photographs were so well received, that friends urged him to do more.

"I had a lot of friends in the Chicago SM scene, so it was no problem finding models." By 1993, Goedde had his first feature in *Skin Two Magazine*, the bible of the fetish fashion scene. After that, he continued shooting his own brand of fetish imagery which in turn would get published in many other fetish publications such as *Marquis, Secret, Ritual,* and *Taste of Latex*.

While continuing to pursue his artistic vision, Goedde never pursued photography professionally. It was done strictly for the aesthetic fun of it. Up until 1998, Goedde continued to make a living working as a buyer for a Chicago record store. To him, this gave him the opportunity to take pictures on his own terms. He only took photos for himself and his models.

In 1997, the art world took notice of his work. He had two simultaneous features in two of the most revered photography magazines, Italy's *Zoom* and Spain's *La Fotografta Actual* for which he received the cover story.

In 1997, Goedde was contacted by the highly respected photography publisher Edition Stemmle of Switzerland.

continued on next page

Within a year after the initial contact, they released Goedde's first hardcover retrospective *"The Beauty of Fetish."* Proving that fetish photography was now acceptable in the mainstream market, Vicki Goldberg, the photography critic for the *New York Times*, provided the introduction to Goedde's book. Since it's release, the book has received an overwhelming amount of critical acclaim and broke sales records in the USA and Europe.

In early 1998, before the book's release, Goedde left his hometown of Chicago and headed out to Los Angeles where he currently works on his photography. He still refuses to pursue professional photography and insists on doing his fine art erotica on his own terms.

Recently, Goedde's work has been shown in numerous galleries alongside other photographers as Walker Evans, Robert Frank, August Sander, Lewis Hine, and Jan Saudek.

(Publisher's note: I owe Steve an apology for taking so long to get his work into LadyLike. When I first saw his photographs, I knew our readers would enjoy them. They are stunningly beautiful and intensely erotic. Let him know directly what you think. His email is <SDGoedde@aol.com>. His website is <www.stevedietgoedde.com>. All photos ©2000 by Steve Diet Goedde — JAR)

Roxanne Van Ness

Sweet Seventeen — Again

Remember that Gnarly Gnoel I spent at Teresa and Patricia's? Remember my stressing about possible negative vibes on the part of said hostesses? Remember my anticipating how April 22nd would prove the pivotal date on my 2001 social calendar? Well, allow me to treat you to the following revelatory, albeit not entirely unexpected bulletin. Guess who never got her Y2K+1 birthday blast? Your's truly has been "brutally rebuffed."

True, I can't claim I failed to see this scenario coming. The ladies didn't phone me all year. (Normally, they'd call every few weeks to ask how things were going.) Back in December-January, I'd contacted them on several occasions only to have each conversation wind up brief and to the point. (Normally, they'd talk up a storm.) When I inquired whether I could drop by with four thank you cards (hey, I try!) I was instructed to stuff them into the mail slot. Normally, they'd coax me inside for a chat. Furthermore, I received nary an Easter card. (Normally, an annual certainty.)

Apparently, I've been victimized by the proverbial double standard. I'd done my "homework" thoroughly prior to forging ahead with the Christmas dinner project. I'd known in advance that Teresa and husband Steve had crossdressed in the 1930s. I was equally aware of how, decades ago, one of her male colleagues had ventured outdoors in women's clothing. In fact, she found both incidents totally amusing. (Yes, she'd told me so.) Unfortunately, "Beverley's" surprise appearance served only to, like, rub her the wrong way. Go figure. Did she consider her "substitute guest" too pretty? Had I dared beat a couple of genetic females at their own game? Or, yikes!, could my slip have been showing all evening ? Now, whereas I got the distinct impression that Patricia wasn't particularly po'ed, feisty mama nonetheless ruled! (Can Rox call 'em or what? I was afraid this might happen.)

Amazing, isn't it? In a span of only 14 weeks – September 16th to December 25th – I succeeded in alienating both Auntie J.J. (for non c.d. reasons) and my friendliest of neighbors. Obviously, I possess a remarkable talent for arriving at "unwise" decisions.

Anyway, given the opportunity to relive Christmas past I'd proceed somewhat differently. While DRAB gear would remain verboten, I'd show up wearing a red, above the knee skirt and black 4-inch chunky heels! Now, that sight would surely short circuit Teresa's pacemaker! (It takes very little to scandalize the old gal.) Not to worry, though, I'd be carrying jumper cables in my purse!

In retrospect, I can't believe I wasted – for the sake of dumb diplomacy – a perfectly good pair of shaved legs! What a certified bonehead!

Okay. Rewind tape to earlier in the new year...

Basking in the cozy glow of my Holiday triumph I longed to do more. Not one to sit around passively, I intensely pondered the possibilities. Eventually, two ideas came to mind. One involved paying Phillip, a sick comrade, a visit. There were potential pitfalls in this endeavor. How would he and Rosa react? (Let's face it. My supply of friends was running a tad low. And complicating matters was old Phil's eye for chic chicks – despite being married for – over 43 years.) And, there was mucho snow covered ground to traverse, and to date I lacked suitable girlie galoshes for the trip! (I just hate getting my precious painted toes wet! How positively icky.) Option number two required going to a movie... Hey, after all, "Miss Congeniality" was playing! I'd stumbled upon the perfect sophisticated, "fortyish" ensemble and "Beverley" never looked better! What more appropriate venue to test this new found elegance than the mall? But, as before, two factors held me back. Remember, I'd failed to locate proper winter footwear. (Heck, didn't any store/boutique/warehouse stock petite size 12s?) And, while scoping out the premises in barney mode I noticed a plethora of young people – both gaggles of giggling girls and a smattering of scruffy-looking boys. (Or was it scruffy looking girls and giggling boys?) Needless to say, I could feel my resolve jumping ship.

Lever-the-Ness, all was not lost. I did attend a screening of the film– as a guy. But I actually enjoyed myself in the process. Oh, sure, some scenes proved, a tad contradictory and Ms. Bullock's Gracie Hart portrayal so reeked of toughness that I imagined Hannibal Lecter fleeing an adjacent theater and hijacking the nearest cab to Spitsbergen! (Er, can Spitsbergen be reached from here by taxi?) Yet I totally melted during the sentimental sequences. Gosh, that hair removal segment nearly brought a tear to my eye... Sniff.

Alas, home from the evening, I felt stalemated, impotent, useless. Here I stood, and there lay countless components of my feminine personality... with no place to go. Again I was forced to rethink my strategy!

Over the course of the next two months, I still dressed, still took girlie pictures, still picked up the mail and threw out the trash en femme. I still waved hello to my captivating mirror reflection on a regular basis. (Don't even think of laughing!) I still slept in a nightie. Still... Big Wow. These minor highlights were hardly enough! Something was missing. And, as if to add insult to injury, various not-so-subtle hints of my chronological age increasingly manifested themselves. Ah, yes. The unparalleled joys of passing 50! Humongous leg cramps! Short-term memory lapses! Frequent visits to the bathroom (a.k.a. a whole lotta peein'.) Sporadic drooling! (Eeewww! Could full-fledged slobbering be far behind?)

Hey, this was totally depressing! Ever trot down the stairs, almost missing a step because you thought you were missing a step when you weren't? Been there. How about switching on, a light to verify whether you'd turned it off? Done that. Come in, wash up, and have lunch – only to discover two hours later that the door hadn't been locked? I rest my case. And I refuse to dwell on the ghastly specter of open zippers! Middle age sucked! Let's face it: a "forty something" image wasn't sufficient! I needed to turn back the clock much further! I needed a major makeover!

Gidget, ah Roxanne, exposes her toes to the elements. Wet toes... icky!

Wait a second! Maybe this panic driven self-analysis was way harsh! Basically, I was coping with life to the max. I was a young thinking person, I'd managed to keep my figure all these years (valiantly warding off the twin ravages of time and gravity). My natural hair color was still dark brown. Golly, I didn't even wear glasses yet! Yeah! Things could be worse! Right? (Help me out here.)

Are you familiar with "Gidget"? The 1959 romantic comedy? The one starring Sandra Dee? Well, during a stretch of 11 days, I watched the video eight times! Now, you may view this as bizarre, but I caught myself identifying with the female title role! For one thing, the girl was blonde and adorable – just like me! (Giggle.) For another, I loved her wardrobe! (I'd gladly wiggle into any of those styles! Except perhaps the baggy swimsuit,) Moreover, I'd long reserved a place in my heart for the straight forward values of the 1950s! Sigh.

But why would a 53-year-old dude (with an "e") fantasize about being a babe of 17? Heck, I don't know. What motivates my transformation into a woman of color? A blushing bride? An expectant mother? (Wish I had all the answers, believe me.) What I do know is that the post WWII era was a super time to grow up. I'd found the inspiration I'd been seeking and hastily formulated a plan of action!

Admittedly, I targeted a guise radically hipper than The Gidge's. A newly purchased teal cardigan would provide a stunning contrast to my red minidress. And, to showcase a pair of nyloned legs the occasion called for black chunky slingbacks. (Titter.) I was on a roll! Look out Town of Mount Royal!

The main concern remained my "Roxanne" wig. Now over eleven years old it had lost much of its curl and all luster. Thankfully, frantic brushing and fluffing ultimately converted tired Rox locks into "big hair." Yay!

Permission granted to fast-forward to the present...

Teased tresses. High hemline. Slender stems. Stylish slings. All right! Who needs a birthday party when she's received the awesomest present possible? Hey, I've become sweet seventeen, again! (Giggle.) Am I cute or what? (Okay. I'm no Foxy Roxy, but, at the risk of repeating myself, I try.) And, for starters, wouldn't a pink prom dress be just so de rigueur! Like, I'm sure Daddy can afford to... (Oops.) Sorry, got carried away.

Funny thing, Teenager Roxanne has never once drooled, dribbled, slavered, or slobbered. Totally tubular! Er, either that or any salivary episodes have simply slipped my post-menopausal mind. LL

North American Support Groups

National US Membership Organizations

International Foundation for Gender Education, PO Box 540229, Waltham, MA 02454. Publishes Transgender Tapestry ($40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. "ifge@ifge.org""www.ifge.org"

Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of $40 includes the monthly publication "Transgender Community News." Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(!)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501[c][3] non-profit membership organization. "angela@ren.org" "www.ren.org"

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the Femme Mirror quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. "jeftris@aol.com"

Alaska
Alaska T People, PO Box 670349, Chugiak, AK, 99567

Arizona
A Rose, PO Box 8108, Glendale, AZ, 85312-8108, 602-488-0959

Transgendered Harmony, PO Box 83927, Phoenix, AZ, 85701, 602-954-7553, www.geocities.com/tgharmony

Alpha-Zeta (Tri-Ess), PO Box 28363, Tempe, AZ, 85285-8363, 602-488-0959,

Evolere Transgendered Foundation, 1830 E. Broadway Blvd. #124-269, Tucson, AZ, 85719, (520) 884-0541

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance, 300 E Sixth St, Tucson, AZ, 85705

California
U.S. G.I.R.L.S. Club, P.O. Box 3182, Cerritos, CA, 90703-3182

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA, 94527-2885 www.transgender.org/tg/dvg/

American Transsexual Education Center, 1626 n. Wilcox Ave. #584, Hollywood, CA, 90028, 213-389-6938

Gender Expressions, PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA, 90714, 310-869-4241

CHIC, PO Box 17850, Long Beach, CA, 90807

Access Point, PO Box 7180, Los Osos, CA, 93402, 800-549-1749

CD Social Group, PO Box 224, Montrose, CA, 91021

LKO (Ladies Knight Out), 3320 Chapman Ave., Orange, CA, 92869, (714) 289-0144

PSGV Transgendered Support, 401 South Main St., Suite 104, Pomona, CA, 91765, 909-620-8987

Alpha Chapter, 409 N. Pacific Coast Hwy. #320, Redondo Beach, CA, 90277, 310-798-5637

Born Free, PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA, 92517, 909-875-2687, www.BornFree2000.com

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 162907, Sacramento, CA, 95816-2907, 916-364-7212

Neutral Corner, PO Box 19008, San Diego, CA, 92159, 619-685-3696

Center for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community, 3909 Centre Street, San Diego, CA, 92103, 619-692-2077

TGSF, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA, 94142-6486, 415-564-3246, www.tgsf.org/

LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center), 127 Collingwood St, San Francisco, CA, 94117, 800-246-7743, www.lyric.org

Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA, 95170-0730, 408-984-4044, www.transgender.org/tg/rga/rgapage.html

Silicon Valley Gender Association, 175 Stockton, San Jose, CA, www.svga.org

TranzcentralCoast, P.O. Box 14146, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93406, 805-543-2126, tranzcentralcoast.org

Sigma Sigma Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA, 96151, n/a

TG Alliance of Coachella Valley, PO Box 391, Thousand Palms, CA, 92276, 760-323-9663, humlog.homestead.com/tgcoachellavalley

Tri Chi Tri-Ess, PO Box 194, Tulare, CA, 93275, 209-688-9246

Ventura Transgender Outreach, c/o GLCC, 3503 Arundell Circle, Suite 3-A, Ventura, CA, 93003, 805-339-6340

Colorado
Phoneix Project, 1740 South Buckley Road, #6-178, Aurora, CO, 80017

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc., 1455 Ammons St., Suite 100, Lakewood, CO, 80215-4993, 303-202-6466, www.transgender.org/tg/gic

Pueblo TV/TS Support Group, 1144 Clarmont, Pueblo, CO, 81004-2808

Connecticut
connecticuTView, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT, 06460, www.transgender.org/ctv

Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, CT, 06034, (860) 604-6343, www.ctoutreach.org

GBSING, c/o PO Box 162, Haddam, CT, 06438

Twenty (XX) Club Inc., PO Box 387, Hartford, CT, 06141-0387, 203-646-8651

District of Columbia
Washington-Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 50724, Washington, DC, 20091-0724, 800-738-0389

Delaware
Renaissance, Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE, 19808, 302-376-1990, www.ren.org/rende.html

Florida
Starburst, PO Box 6822, Clearwater, FL, 33756-6822, 727-523-8760

Trans Alliance of Gainesville, PO Box 143102, Gainesville, FL, 32614-3102

Mu Beta Gamma Tri-Ess, PO Box 4126, Hialeah, FL, 33014, 305-653-8088, geocities.com/Athens/Atrium/8168

North Florida Transgender Group (NFTG), 768 Day Ave, Jacksonville, FL, 32205, 904-384-8965

Animas, PO Box 420309, Miami, FL, 33242, NA

Evolve, 946 N Mills Ave, Orlando, FL, 32803, 407-228-8272

Emerald Coast/PANTRA, 8084 N. Davis Hwy E3, Pensacola, FL, 32514

Tampa Bay Gender Alliance, 3708 Swann Ave, Tampa, FL, 33629, 813-985-3371

Gender Society of the Palm Beaches, c/o Compass, 7600 s. Dixie Highway, W. Palm Beach, FL, 33405, 561-533-9699, www.compassglcc.com

Phi Epislon Mu, Tri-Ess, PO Box 3261, Winter Park, FL, 32790-3261, (407) 263-8978

Georgia
AGE, PO Box 160003, Atlanta, GA, 30316, 770-439-9769, www.genderatlanta.org/

Sigma Epsilon, Tri-Ess, PO Box 272, Rosewell, GA, 30077-0272, Unknown404-552-4415

Hawaii
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, PO Box 8233, Honolulu, HI, 96830, 808-923-4270, www.newbies.net/htgo/

Iowa
Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52406, N/A

Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 1925, Clinton, IA, 52733, 319-242-4405

QCAD Group, PO Box 1534, Davenport, IA, 52809, 319-323-5492

Idaho
Tri-States Transgender Group, PO Box 6691, Boise, ID, 83707, 208-368-8669

Illinois
Central Illinois Gender Assoc (CIGA), P.O. Box 3082, Champaign, IL, 60826-3082

Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL, 60657, 708-749-1202, www.chicagogender.com

Chi, Tri-Ess, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL, 60191-0040, 708-383-1677

Indiana
IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN, 46250, 317-971-6976, members.aol.com/ixe/fish/

Transgender Outreach of N. Indiana, Ltd., PO Box 2372, Portage, IN, 46368, 219-650-2142

Kansas
KCCAF (Kansas City Crossdressers & Friends), PO Box 4092, Overland Park, KS, 66204, 913-791-3847

Kentucky
BGB Transgender Support, PO Box 20173, Louisville, KY, 40250, 502-346-5298, www.transgender.org/bgb/

Louisiana
Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA, 70156-6836, (504) 943-1999, www.gga.org

Massachusetts
Sunshine Club, PO Box 564, Hadley, MA, 01035-0564, 413-586-5004, www.umass.edu/stonewall/sunshine/

Innvestments, PO Box 2194, Orleans, MA, 02653-3160, 508-563-3160, www.transgender.org/innv/

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 71, Waltham, MA, 02454-0071, 781-891-9325, www.tcne.org

COMPASS, PO Box 229, Waltham, MA, 02454-0229, 781-899-2212, www.ifge.org

TG Support Group, 36 Alpine Rd, Wayland, MA, 01778, 508-358-3512

Maryland
The Bridge Club, PO Box 11737, Baltimore, MD, 21206-0337, na

Transgender Support Group of Baltimore, GLCC of Baltimore, 241 W. Chase St., Baltimore, MD, 21201, 410-837-5445 or 410-837-8888 (7-10pm)

Chi Epsilon Sigma, PO Box 505, Brooklandville, MD, 21022-0505, members.tripod.com/-Chesapeake_Tri_Ess/

Washington-Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 1994, Silver Spring, MD, 20915, 301-649-3960, www.transgender.org/wba/contact/index.html

Maine
Maine Gender Resource & Support, c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME, 04402-1894

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME, 04101

Michigan
After Six, PO Box 126, Comstock Park, MI, 49321

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI, 49501, Unknown

Lambda Mu, Tri-Ess, PO Box 246, Moline, MI, 49335-0246, carla93@juno.com, www.lambdamu.com

TransGender Michigan 517-347-3681, www.TransGenderMichiGan.org

Crossroads, PO 8ox 1245, Royal Oak, MI, 48068-1245, 313-537-3267

Friends North, Inc., PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI, 49685-0562, (616) 946-1804

Minnesota
Gender Education Center, PO 8ox 1861, Maple Grove, MN, 55311, 612-424-5445

City of Lakes Crossgender Community, PO 8ox 14844, Minneapolis, MN, 55414, 651-229-3613

8eta Gamma, Tri-Ess, PO 8ox 8591, Minneapolis, MN, 55408, 1-877-4triess, www.tri-ess.com

TransThursday, c/o District 202, 1601 Nicolett Ave South, Minneapolis, MN, 55403, 612-871-5559

Tau Epsilon Mu, PO 8ox 40126, St. paul, MN, 55104, 1-877-487-4377, www.geocities.com/triessmn/

Missouri
TransSisters, 4004 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO, 64110, 816-753-7816

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO 8ox 9433, St. Louis, MO, 63117, 314-367-4128

Mississippi
Southern 8elle Society, PO Box 3112, Gulfport, MS, 39505, members.xoom.com/RachelMc/

Montana
Western Montana GL8T Community Center, 615 Oak ST, Missoula, MT, 59801, gaymontana.com/wmglcc

North Carolina
Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, NC, 28814, 828-669-3889

Kappa Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, NC, 28220-2101, 704-565-5034., www.kappabeta.org

Carolina Transensual Alliance (CTA), 112 Edwardia, Charlotte, NC, 27409

Triad Gender Association, PO Box 2264, Jamestown, NC, 27282-2264, (336)454-1493

Sigma Rho Delta Tri-Ess, PO 8ox 90141, Raleigh, NC, 27675-0141, www.geocities.com/SigmaRhoDelta/

NC TG Unity, 3201 Huddlestone Drive Apt 108, Raleigh, NC, 27612, 919-788-9830, www.geocities.com/nctgunity/

Nebraska
River City Gender Alliance, PO 8ox 8076, Omaha, NE, 68108, www.genderalliance.com

New Hampshire
Tri-Ess New England, PO 8ox 7681, Nashau, NH, 03060-7681New Jersey

Chi Delta Mu, Tri-Ess, PO Box 1, River Edge, NJ, 07661-0001, 800-484-7593 (code 4985)

Epsilon Mu Gamma, PO Box 4, Three Bridges, NJ, 08887, 717-364-2949, www.transgender.org/emg/

Sigma Nu Rho, Tri-Ess, PO 8ox 9255, Trenton, NJ, 08650, (609) 392-1132

New Jersey Support, PO 8ox 9378, Trenton, NJ, 08650, 609-918-0603

New Mexico
Transgender Community Group, Meets at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, 505-265-7655, www.tgnm.net

Nevada
Transsexual Support Group, c/o Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas, NV, 702-369-8700

Transgender Supportand Advocacy, Nevada, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Suite 207, Las Vegas, NV, 89108, (702) 392-2132, www.transgender.org/tg/vegas_tg/index.htm

Equinox, 8175 S Virginia, Suite 850-256, Reno, NV, 89511-8981, www.eq1.com/

New York
TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY, 12212-3604, 518-436-4513

8uffalo 8elles, PO 8ox 1701, Amherst, NY, 14226, (716) 879-0973, www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Village/3339/

Shades of Lavender, 502 Bergen St, 8rooklyn, NY, 11217, 718-622-2910 ext-104

CrossDressers International, 404 W 40th St #2, New York, NY, 10018, 212-570-7389

Metropolitan Gender Network, 561 Hudson St., 8ox 45, New York, NY, 10014, 201-794-1665, ext. 332

Gender Identity Project at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center, One Little West 12th Street, New York, NY, 10014, 212-620-7310, www.gaycenter.org

CD*Network, PO 8ox 92055, Rochester, NY, 14692, 716-251-2132

Rochester Transgender organization, C/O Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley; 179 Atlantic Avenue, Rochester, NY, 14607, 716-442-2425

Expressing Our Nature, Inc., c/o Pride Community Center, PO Box 6608, 745 N Salina St., Syracuse, NY, 13217-6608, 315-476-1658

LIFE, PO 8ox 1311, Watermill, NY, 11976-1311

MeNTA, c/o The Loft 180 E Post Rd LL, White Plains, NY, 10601, 914-948-2987, www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Club/9166/

Ohio
Crossport, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH, 45204, 513-768-3161, www.transgender.org/crossprt/crossprt.htm

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Cleveland, OH, 44129, 216-586-9292, www.tgfmall.com/tg/para

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH, 43068-0287, 614-844-5371, www.tgender.net/cc

Alpha Omega, PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, OH, 44054-0053, 216-556-0067, www.triess-alphaomega.org

Oklahoma
Gender Outreach of Oklahoma, P.O 8ox 2687, Tulsa, OK, 74101, 918-743-4297, www.koolpages.com/genderok/

Oregon
Rho Gamma, PO Box 5551, Grants Pass, OR, 97527

Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Ave., La Grande, OR, 97850, 541-962-3466

Northwest Gender Alliance, PO 8ox 4928, Portland, OR, 97208, 503-646-2802, www.nwgapdx.org

Pennsylvania
Renaissance - Lehigh Valley, PO Box 3624, Allentown, PA, 18106, 610-821-2955

Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th St #261, Erie, PA, 16505

Renaissance, Lower Susquehanna Valley, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA, 17105-2122, 717-780-1578, www.ezonline.com/lsv/

Transpitt, PO 8ox 3214, Pittsburgh, PA, 15230, 412-422-1558, www.transpitt.org

TSG (Transsexual Support Group), 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206, 412-661-7030

Renaissance, Greater Philadelphia, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA, 19087, 610-975-9119, www.ren.org

Tennessee
Swans, PO 8ox 12701, Knoxville, TN, 37912-2701, www.transgender.org/swans/index.html

Mirror Image, PO Box 11052, Memphis, TN, 38111-1052

Tennessee Vals, PO 8ox 92335, Nashville, TN, 37209, 615-664-6883, www.transgender.org/tg/tvals/

Texas
West Texas Gender Alliance, c/o Tami Maloney, 5350 Llano St., Abilene, TX, 79605

Central Texas Transgender Society, PO 8ox 300487, Austin, TX, 78705, 512-452-1145, www.cttgs.org

Texas Assoc. for Transsexual Support (T.A.T.S.), PO Box 142, Bellaire, TX, 77401, 281-437-2975, www.genderweb.org/~tats

Alpha Tau, PO 8ox 1398, Georgetown, TX, 78627

Gulf Coast Transgender Community, PO 8ox 66643, Houston, TX, 77266, 713-780-GCTC (4282)

Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE), 8880 Bellaire B2 #104, Houston, TX, 77036, 713-347-8747

Tau Chi, Tri-Ess, 8800 Bellaire 82, Ste. 104, Houston, TX, 77036, 713-988-8064

Metroplex CD Club, PO Box 141924, Irving, TX, 75014-1924, 972-264-7103, www.flash.net/~domega

Austin Second Image, PO 8ox 679, Leander, TX, 78641, 512-515-5460

Epsilon Tau, Tri-Ess, PO Box 945, New Waverly, TX, 77358, 409-344-6014

Nu Epsilon Tau, PO 8ox 14096, Pantego, TX, 76094, 214-490-5738

Utah
An Engendered Species, PO box 11897, Salt Lake City, UT, 84147, 801-364-0136

Western Transsexuals Support Network, 4667 Holladay 8lvd, #2, Salt Lake City, UT, 84117, 801-277-8025, home.earthlink.net/~bethann48/utah/index.html

Virginia
Transgender Education Association, PO Box 16036, Arlington, VA, 22215, 301-949-3822, www.tgea.net

Washington
Bellingham Gender Group, PO Box 2004, Bellingham, WA, 98227, 360-445-3461, www.bellinghamgendergroup.org

Washington Gender Alliance, PO 8ox 2261, 8ellingham, WA, 98227

Emerald City, PO 8ox 31318, Seattle, WA, 98103, 425-827-9494

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, WA, 98122-2843, 206-329-6651 Fax 206-860-6064, www.ingersollcenter.org

Wisconsin
Gemini Gender Group, P.O.8ox 44211, Milwaukee, WI, 53214, 414-297-9328

West Virginia
The Valley Girls, P.O.Box 181, Dunbar, WV, 25064-0181, www.pridewv.com/tvg

Trans-West Virginia, PO 8ox 2322, Huntington, WV, 25724

CANADA

Alberta
Illusions Social Club, PO 8ox 2000, Calgary T2C-184, 403-486-9661,

Phi Sigma, Tri-Ess, Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr. S.E. T2C-1B4

British Columbia
Kootenays Support Group, 8ox 270, Rossland, V0G 1Y0, 250-362-5701,

Cornbury Society, PO 8ox 3745, Vancouver, V68-3Z1, N/A,

Zenith Foundation, 8ox 46, 8415 Granville St., Vancouver, V6P 4Z9

Transcend Transgender Support & Education Society, PO 8ox 8673, Victoria, V8X 3S2, (250) 413-3220

Manitoba
Masquerade, c/o 832 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, R3M 0Y2

Ontario
Ottawa TS Discussion Group, PO 8ox 42067, RPO St Laurent, Ottawa K1K 4L8

Gender Metaphor, PO 8ox 27097, Ottawa, K1J 9L9

Chrysalis, 349A George St. N, Suite 206, Peterborough, K9H 3P9

Xpressions, PO 8ox 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 182, 416-410-6949, www.Xpressions.org

S.O.S. Club, 519 Church St, Toronto, M4Y 2C9, (416)-392-6874, webhome.idirect.com/~players

Gender Mosaic, PO 8ox 7421, Vanier, K1L-8E4, (819) 770-1945, www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/9630/

Quebec
Action Santé: Travesti(e)s et Transsexuel(le)s du Québec, 1626 Rue St-Hubert, Montreal, (514) 847-0067,

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K-3B8, ,

Resources

Calendar of Events

April 2002

3 - 7, Transgender 2002, The 16th Annual IFGE Convention Nashville, TN Co-hosted by The Tennessee Vals TG support group. For more details on Transgender 2002, Phone: (610) 759-1761 or E-mail: Kristine James at: <skristinej@aol.com>.

5 - 7, Eureka! En Femme Getaway, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, Co-hosted by Sigma-Mu, Springfield Mo and Tri-Ess Int. An Elegant and Relaxing weekend in the quaint Victorian town of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Join us for a fun filled weekend in a community that is extremely TG friendly. Contact <femmegetaway@yahoo.com>.

6, 13th Annual Connecticut Outreach Society Banquet in East Windsor, CT. E-mail us at <banquet@ctoutreach.org>.

11 - 14, Kindred Spirits SPRING CIRCLE, Come celebrate an Appalachian Spring, combining elements of Equinox ritual and Beltane frolic. Activities include hiking, drumming, planting, and a picnic up on the Blue Ridge Parkway. A time for blossoming. Contact Holly Boswell, Kindred Spirits, 395 Lakey Gap Acres, Black Mountain, NC 28711. Email: <hollyfairy@juno.com>.

18 - 21, Kindred Spirits SILENT RETREAT An invitation to step into the consciousness of being fully awake. It is a privilege to be in a beautiful place, to be well fed, and to surrender to silence. Come discover, or refresh, this practice of finding true peace. Hosted by Zantui Rose. Contact Holly Boswell, Kindred Spirits, 395 Lakey Gap Acres, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

20, Magnolia Ball in Charlotte, NC. Sponsored by North Carolina TG Unity. <http://www.geocities.com/nctgunity/>

20, 10th Annual Unity Banquet, at the Hilton Southwest, Regency Ballroom, 6780 SW Freeway (I-59), Houston, TX. Room cost is $69.00 per night (please when you book be sure to tell them that you are attending the banquet). Tickets are $35.00, for further details or tickets contact: Brandi <bindian@lcc.net>.

30 - 5/5, Diva Las Vegas 2002. For info e-mail: <dlv@geekbabe.com>.

May 2002

7 - 10, TG Spring Faire at the Reno Hilton. Rooms available. Cocktail parties, banquets, dancing and famous TG personalities. Booths selling products especially for the transgender, plastic surgery information, make-overs, specially made custom clothing, seminars and guest speakers.
<http://www.totallywomanonline.com/>

May 2002

12-19, Esprit 2002, in Port Angeles, Wash. Esprit 2002 is co-hosted by Seattle's Emerald City group, Portland's Northwest Gender Alliance, and Vancouver BC's Cornbury Group. This is our 12th year of hosting this fabulous event in Port Angeles Washington! Please visit our website <http://www.espritgala.com/> or send email questions to <esprit@espritgala.com>.

15 - 22, Dignity Cruise 16, 2002 Sailing to Alaska from Vancouver. For info email: <melpeg@pmpub.com>.

29 - 6/2, The New Be-All 2002: 20th Anniversary, at the Radisson Hotel, 75 West Algonquin Road in Arlington Heights, IL. For more information phone (708) 863-7714 or write to Olivia/Be-All, P.O. Box 785, Prospect Heights, IL 60070 or visit our web site. <http://www.Be-all.org/>

June 2002

20 - 23, Kindred Spirits SUMMER CIRCLE, Spiritual circling in observance of solar solstice, plus hiking, swimming and picnicking at Lake Lure, and drumming at the Peace Chamber. This could be your very own summer vacation with kindred spirits. Contact Holly Boswell, Kindred Spirits, 395 Lakey Gap Acres, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

Sept. 2002

12 - 15, Kindred Spirits AUTUMN CIRCLE, Spiritual circling in early observance of the Equinox, plus hiking, swimming and picnicking at Lake Lure, drumming at the Light Center, and a decadent slumber party. A festive celebration of summer's end. Contact Holly Boswell, Kindred Spirits, 395 Lakey Gap Acres, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

Nov. 2002

6 - 10, Paradise In The Poconos 2002, an extended weekend for CDs in the Pennsylvania Pocono mountains with parties, programs and lots of fun. Contact CDS, PO Box 491, Lionville PA 19353-0491, call 610-321-0858, email: <poco@cdspub.com>.

Dec. 2002

28 - 31, Kindred Spirits WINTER CIRCLE After the fever pitch of commercialized holidays, you are invited to retreat in quiet reverence with kindred spirits. Bring a log for our mountain top bonfire, and start your year in Yule Circle. Contact Holly Boswell, Kindred Spirits, 395 Lakey Gap Acres, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

Mirror Mirror

▼ Tiffany Michelle, Va. - FWD2281

▲ Nicole Shelby, Minn. - FWD4011

▲ Krystal Glass, Ky.
FWD4124

▼ Priscilla, Chicago, Ill. - FWD107

▼ Lillian, Louisville Ky. - FWD3267

▼ Cena Williams, NY - FWD2710

◄
Janet Matthews, Milw., Wis.
FWD3863

Letters...

More Love FROM BC

Dear Friends: Recently received your latest issue and really enjoyed it. Yours is the only CD magazine I bother reading now. You set the standards for excellence.

I have not had a photo in for a while so I thought I'd send a few. Best wishes, Christine, C.D. Brown, 57064-2480 Hastings St., Vancouver, BC V5K 5G6

She's Got Problems

I am a 51 year old single, white, male, heterosexual crossdresser and I just want you to know how much I enjoy your magazine. I think it is a wonderful publication and I just couldn't bear to miss a single issue.

CHRISTINE

I want to have some decent photos taken so I can submit them to your magazine.

I also am having a tremendous problem finding where I can purchase a Spandex/cotton mini skirt in a waist size 34-36. I have literally looked all over and can't find one. If you know where I can purchase one let me know.

I also would love to hear from and contact any sisters or real women who would like to write to me.

Stay as gorgeous and beautiful as you are. Sincerely yours, Linda. Danie L. Slade, PMB 769, 633 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94109-8215.

Angela responds: Specifying a Spandex and cotton blend may limit your selection. We are at the whims of the fashion designers and some times they provide Spandex and cotton, and sometimes they don't. I would look in JC Penney, Ross (there is a lovely giant Ross in downtown S.F.) and at the Buffalo Exchange thrift store in S.F.. You can probably find it listed in the phone book. They sell used clothes in great condition and the prices aren't too bad. Or, you could contact the local TG support group, TGSF and find out where their 200 members shop. Info on that in the Resources section.

She Appreciates the Whistle Bait

Dear ladies: First of all I want to thank you for printing my photo in issue #47, page 28. I only wish that I had my new wig at the time. These photos that I'm sending with this letter are of my new wig. Do what you wish.

JoAnn, you cute little pixie, we have not seen a photo of you for a while. I would love to see a new photo of you in LL soon.

And Angela, that photo of you in issue #47, page 45 is great. You look like you are out for action! Wow!

JANE

You are what we used to call a few years back, "Whistle bait." I do believe that you are looking younger. Whatever you are doing, stay with it. No, I am not into the cooking sherry but I would like to pass on a few items for whatever they are worth.

This is for all you "scairdy cat" T-girls like me. As JoAnn and Angela said, get out of the closet and find a support group. I understand if you gals can't leave the house because of marriage, family, and if you are a care giver to an ill loved one. I have been there. If you are basically free, check out the support groups in some of the TG magazines. If these groups do not have what you want they maybe can lead you to some who do have what you want. Good luck.

As for me, I checked into a TG/CD support group in February 2001. I told myself if anything smells weird or wild I would be out of there like a greased snake. As things turned out they were very decent people and I was welcomed by all. I had a ball. I am closeted near home so I go to dress and doll up at their home. Some TG/CD support group meetings do take place in private home. It is the same anyplace. If you do not have loud music and raise hell the neighbors could care less, and no cops.

Sometimes after the meeting our hostess will take us out to a TG/CD friendly night spot. My first time out in real public, yes, I had "rubber knees." I was "ma'amed" all over the place by the staff so I guess that I passed alright.

I believe that the few of us who write and send photos to the TG/CD magazines are just the tip of the iceberg of us T-gals. Come on out girls and ladies. I know that you are out there!

The bottom line is to enjoy life as long as you don't hurt anybody. Also, feel good about yourselves. I will close now and let old Jane get off her soap box. Some wise guy may want to look under my dress.

JoAnn and Angela, keep up the good work.

Many hugs, Jane, John C. Walker, Sr., 11 Choctawhatchee N.E., Ft. Walton Bch, FL 32548

Angela says: Well Jane, I'm glad you enjoyed my photo. And I *actually* went out in that outfit. I'd love to bring you some new photos of "pixie" JoAnn but she has banned the camera in her presence. It's a personal thing so stop badgering her! My youthful appearance? I have bought Dick Clark's Secret Formula for Anti Aging. Actually, I just try to drink lots of water, eat whole grain breads when possible, use olive oil for cooking and try not to get drunk more than two nights in a row. (That vodka can kill ya.)

And, remember, there is no such thing as "passing" in a TG friendly spot. If they are TG friendly they know what's up and they are working at being friendly and supportive when they call us "miss" and "ma'am." Enjoy that but don't be fooled into thinking they believe your are a genetic woman. I've been out to TG friendly spots with genetic females who were taken for TG by the staff just because they were with TGs. So basically, as long as they treat you right it doesn't matter if you are "passing," go ahead and have fun.

JoAnn says: I haven't been out much so I don't have many new photos. There is a picture of me with Angela and Melanie Bryant on page 17. Hope that feeds the need.

A Variety of Impressions

Dear Angela: Thank you so much for including a letter of mine LL issue #48. It's been said that variety is the spice of life and the variety of crossdressing experiences is certainly revealed in Reader's Letters from the thoughts of Helen to the experience of Janet Matthews. Who would have thought that garter belts, waist cinchers and metal detectors would be such a troublesome trio?

The cover, with you and Sarah Thomas sitting together at the bar is a lovely celebration of femininity. Incidentally, your nails are beautiful. The same spirit is also evident in the AFI Fashion Shoot photo feature.

In your editorial you said that for many crossdressers "the fun of dressing up is rooted in our libidos, " but, like you also said, that's not the whole story. As for "our society is not very good dealing with any sexual issues," that's true, but I wonder how many societies really are?

Speaking of the mystery of life, the Model Search 2001 photo feature is fabulous. The ladies are all so beautiful and feminine that, for example, when seeing the photos of Gretchen (Miss Winter 2001) one can barely dare to ask, "is she or isn't she?"

The Profile of Julie Anders is great reading and I found her account of being stranded in San Francisco dressed as Wonder Woman like something out of a movie. Truth can be stranger than fiction. Love, Beverly, FWD 3903

BEVERLY

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On My Mind...

A good friend of mine has a favorite saying: "It's not what you don't know that's gonna get you in trouble; it's what you know's ain't so." So, I'm about to "get in trouble."

The following quote was taken off a page of the Rikki Swin Institute (RSI) website <http://www.rsinstitute.org/anecdotal_research.htm>: "RSI Research makes **monetary and research requests** for its own needs and the needs of other gender organizations such as; The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), FtM International, Gender Education and Advocacy (GEA), Outreach Institute of Gender Studies (OIGS), Tri-Ess, **Renaissance Transgender Association (RTA)**, It's Time America (ITA), Center For Assistance, Research and Information on Transsexuality and Gender Identity (CARITIG), Society for the Scientific Study of Sex (SSSS), and Association for Sex Education Counselors and Therapists (ASECT)." (sic) [emphasis mine]

Bull! Pure, unadulterated BS, that's what that statement is. I can't speak for the other organizations, but I can tell you that not only has the RSI not made any requests on behalf of Renaissance, it turned down a request by Renaissance for monetary help with the last International Congress on Sex & Gender. No, wait. I take that back. The RSI didn't turn down their request. It ignored them completely. They never responded to their request at all. Rather rude I thought. I also can't see either Quad-S or AASECT (the correct acronym) needing the help of RSI to raise funds. And, given that neither the Outreach Institute nor ITA! exist anymore, well, can you say, "Ego Trip?"

But wait, there's more! "RSI uses major corporations as a means to an end to orchestrate changes in culture via the great power and wealth of these companies [such as]... in exchange for its utilization of willing research subjects, the pharmaceutical companies are asked (and guided) to spend money to educate the general population about transpersons, and the important and unique contribution that transpersons are making to society. Such an approach is incredibly powerful because of the use of transpersons to benefit mankind in a manner that ultimately benefits themselves."

Translation: The RSI proposes to use transpeople as guinea pigs for pharmaceutical research. According to Dr. Sheila Kirk, this is a ridiculous proposal, one which is not likely to receive any attention from pharmaceutical companies or the trans community at large. More grandstanding and BS from the RSI.

One has to wonder what the hype is about, why the need for such self-aggrandizement? In the two or three years that the RSI has been in existence, it has accomplished little more than to antagonize a great number of transgender leaders and activists who thought the institute would be a force for change in the community. It has not been that, or much of anything else.

• • • • • •

I received a rambling, hand written letter in response to my last editorial about support groups and possible consolidations. I think it was a negative response but I couldn't really tease a single coherent thought out of the several pages. It was damned hard to read. I don't have a problem publishing opposing points of view, but work with me here, okay. If you have to hand write a letter, make it legible; print if you must. Neither I nor Angela have the time to try and decipher chicken scratches. Another person sent an article, typed, but with the caveat that I couldn't change a single word. Needless to say, that didn't make it into the magazine either. We have to have the ability to make editorial changes if for nothing more than space considerations. Without that, you don't get any press. Former *New York Times* editor A. J. Leibling said it best, "Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

• • • • • •

There's political change in the wind. I can't really say much at this time, but by next issue (July) I should have some news of great importance to the trans-community. Til then... Stay frosty!

JoAnn Roberts

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